

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Changes in the ADN

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1. The alterations in the structural plan of the East German news agency (ADN) are becoming more and more pronounced. It is now asked of each editorial office that it draw a quarterly plan of operations instead of the weekly and monthly plans previously used. Overall quarterly plans come down from the management, and form the basis of the special plans drawn by each office.
2. The German Service (Deutschlanddienst) editorial office has been split in two, one for the East Zone, called Main Editorial Office DDR (Hauptredaktion DDR) and the other for the West Zone called Main Editorial Office All-German Questions (Hauptredaktion (Gesamtdeutsche Fragen).
3. At the same time the organization has been permeated by former employees of the Information Office and there has been a bureaucratization, to such a degree that some of the editorial offices are practically unable to get things done. Practically all West Berliners have been dismissed and their places filled with Information Office people chosen for their loyalty rather than their competence or newspaper experience.
4. The editorial offices "Culture" and "Sport" have been dissolved and each of the other offices will have its own Culture and Sport department. There were not enough experienced people in these fields to supply all the other offices, and the current releases in these fields are both bungled and inadequate.
5. There is a noticeable decline in the quality of the work in the most important section of the ADN, that for Survey and Translation. This office handles the releases of all foreign agencies. Since AP and UP have gone over to teletype it is no longer possible to take the product of these agencies, as months of experiment have not yet rendered possible the reception of teletype releases. In this area also the loss of the West Berliners is felt, since the good translators all came from there. It is the same with the radio people; the workers in this department are fresh from training courses, with so little knowledge of foreign languages that at least half of their reception is useless because it is incomprehensible.

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6. The general uncertainty visible in the press arises from the fact that since Stalin's death there has been no general policy line laid down, not even on the new Soviet peace policy. The Central Committee of the SED lays down its line only on a daily basis.
7. This naturally adds to the general uncertainty, and causes violent shifts of view, since things that are gospel one day can become heresy the next. For example, on 10 April 1953 the chief editor of the ADN, Schreiber, notified all editorial offices that they should not handle dispatches speaking about a common May Day demonstration of East and West Berliners, since this was contrary to the interests of the party. But on 13 April 1953 the East Berlin Free German Labor Union (FDGB) announced that it had summoned the West Berlin German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB) to a common demonstration on May Day.

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